

## Claims

What is claimed is:

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5 1. In a parallel data processing system including a plurality of data processing devices coupled to a data network, each of the data processing devices having a processor and a memory coupled to the processor, a method for providing a reward for use of the processors of the data processing devices, the method comprising:

10 providing an algorithm including a plurality of algorithm portions;

providing data including a plurality of data portions;  
defining a task including one of the algorithm portions and one of the data portions;

15 sending, responsive to a request signal from one of the data processing devices, the task to the one data processing device over the data network;

storing the task in the memory of the one data processing device;

20 extracting the one algorithm portion and the one data portion from the task;

retrieving, by the processor of the one data processing device, the one algorithm portion and the one

data portion from the memory of the one data processing device;

performing, by the processor of the one data processing device, the one algorithm portion on the one data portion; and

providing, when the processor of the one data processing device has performed the one algorithm portion on the one data portion, the reward to a recipient associated with the one data processing device.

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2. The method of claim 1, the reward being a payment.

3. The method of claim 2, the payment being a flat fee.

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4. The method of claim 2, the payment being a recurring flat fee.

5. The method of claim 2, the payment being a one-time fee.

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6. The method of claim 2, the payment being a CPU-relative fee.

7. The method of claim 2, the payment being a revenue-sharing fee.

8. The method of claim 2, the payment being a recurring  
5 service-sharing fee.

9. In a parallel data processing system including a plurality of data processing devices coupled to a data network, each of the data processing devices having a  
10 processor and a memory coupled to the processor, each data processing device associated with a respective recipient, a method for providing a reward for use of the data processing devices, the method comprising:

providing instructions representing a portion of an  
15 algorithm, the instructions executable by one of the processors of the data processing devices;

storing the instructions in the memory of one of the data processing devices;

sending a portion of data to the one data processing  
20 device;

storing the portion of data in the memory of the one data processing device;

retrieving, by the processor of the one data processing device, the data and the instructions from the memory;

5 executing the instructions, by the processor of the one data processing device, to perform the portion of the algorithm on the data;

providing the reward to the recipient associated with the one data processing device.

10 10. The method of claim 9, the reward being a payment.

11. The method of claim 10, the payment being a flat fee.

12. The method of claim 10, the payment being a recurring  
15 flat fee.

13. The method of claim 10, the payment being a one-time fee.

20 14. The method of claim 10, the payment being a CPU-relative fee.

15. The method of claim 10, the payment being a revenue-sharing fee.

16. The method of claim 10, the payment being a recurring service-sharing fee.

5 17. A parallel data processing system for providing a reward for use of one of a plurality of processing devices to process data using an algorithm, the data including a plurality of data portions, the algorithm including a plurality of algorithm portions, the processing devices  
10 coupled to a data network, the parallel data processing system comprising:


an originating module coupled to the data network, the originating module capable of:

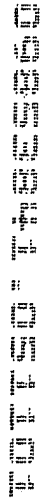
- i) receiving the algorithm and the data,
- 15 ii) extracting the algorithm portions from the algorithm and the data portions from the data,
- iii) sending one of the algorithm portions to one of the processing devices over the data network, and
- iv) sending one of the data portions to the one  
20 processing device over the data network;

a result collation module in communication with the originating module and the processors, the result collation module capable of:

i) receiving a result signal from the one processor, the result signal indicating the one processor has completed performing the one algorithm portion on the one data portion, and

5 ii) providing a reward signal after receiving the result signal; and

 a reward module in communication with the result collation module to receive the reward signal, the reward module capable of:

 10 i) identifying a recipient associated with the one processor after receiving the reward signal, and

ii) providing the reward to the identified recipient.

15 18. The system of claim 17, the reward being a payment.

19. The system of claim 18, the payment being a flat fee.

20 20. The system of claim 18, the payment being a recurring flat fee.

21. The system of claim 18, the payment being a one-time fee.

22. The system of claim 18, the payment being a CPU-  
relative fee.

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23. The system of claim 18, the payment being a revenue-  
5 sharing fee.

24. The system of claim 18, the payment being a recurring  
service-sharing fee.